Claims

[c1]   A method for a user for accounting for and providing evidence of payment of postage comprising:

obtaining a registered digital pen meter registered to the user;

handwriting a return address field on a mail piece;

handwriting a mail piece identifier on the mail piece;

facilitating the transfer of digital pen data to a server; and

placing the mail piece in the mail stream.

[c2]   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an indication that postage was paid.

[c3]   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the user selects the mail piece identifier.

[c4]   The method of claim 1 wherein:

a postal authority sends the mail piece identifier to the user.

[c5]   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining biometric data relating to the user.

[c6]   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining biometric data relating to the pen strokes of the user.

[c7]   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining a postage value indicator written in a postal value field.

[c8]   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the mail piece identifier comprises data obtained from a destination address field.

[c9]   The method of claim 8 wherein:

the mail piece identifier comprises a graphical image representation of the destination address field.

[c10]   The method of claim 8 wherein:

the mail piece identifier comprises data obtained from at least one pen stroke

captured from writing on the mail piece.

[c11] The method of claim 8 wherein:

the mail piece identifier comprises pen stroke data captured from the destination address field and is stored to be matched with a scan of the destination address field.

[c12] A method for verifying payment of postage comprising:

obtaining a user profile;

obtaining a mail piece identifier from a mail piece;

obtaining customer data from the mail piece;

obtaining a mail piece user profile; and

comparing the mail piece user profile to the user profile.

[c13] The method of claim 12 wherein:

the user profile include information obtained using user biometric data.

[c14] The method of claim 12 wherein:

the user profile includes information obtained from pen strokes.

[c15] A method for verifying payment of postage comprising:

obtaining a mail piece identifier from a mail piece;

obtaining a stored mail piece identifier; and

comparing the mail piece identifier to the stored mail piece identifier.